

**PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
TOWN OF NEEDHAM, MASSACHUSETTS**

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

January 23, 2015

Background notes for Monday, January 26th

Park and Recreation Commission Agenda

SPECIAL EVENTS LIGHT WAIVER

The Needham Soccer Club is requesting an additional one hour for use of lights for the Friday night of their Memorial Day Weekend tournament. From the joint policy on lights, the following is allowed: *The time limits for special events may be waived by a supermajority vote of the Park and Recreation Commission or the Memorial Park Trustees and approval of the Board of Selectmen. The Park and Recreation Commission or Memorial Park Trustees will first allow discussions at two meetings or special meeting agendas prior to voting their final decision. Affirmative vote of the board will then be forwarded to the Board of Selectmen for approval at their next meeting.* A super majority of the Commission is 4 out of 5 members. The request will be on the 1/26 meeting for discussion. It will be placed on the 2/9 agenda as an action item for discussion and a vote on whether to approve or not.

CAMP FAIR

The Park and Recreation Department assisted Parent Talk with the marketing of their 3rd Annual Camp Fair, held on January 20th. Assistant Director Robyn Fink, Recreation Supervisor Brendan Croak, and Administrative Specialist Kristen Wright put together lots of information for the event, with some fun activities. They were all excited to meet many parents throughout the night and listen to the positive comments. Kristen put together the Sneak Peek for summer, and it is now posted on the website.

MA MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION

I will be representing Needham on a panel discussing the merits of the CPA legislation at the MMA annual conference on January 23rd. Stuart Saginor from the Community Preservation Coalition will be the primary presenter, and a Selectman from Easton is the third panelist. I will be focusing on three projects – Town Hall, Greene's Field, and High Rock Homes.

RED CROSS PROGRAMS

Assistant Director Robyn Fink will be attending a weekend Red Cross conference, to update communities on the Red Cross programs available, including swim lessons. Robyn holds several Red Cross certifications, including lifeguard instructor.

PLAYGROUND CERTIFICATION

Assistant Director Robyn Fink and Recreation Supervisor Brendan Croak will both participate in the upcoming three day training session on playground safety.

GOOD PERSON AWARD

Louise Condon will receive the Patrick Ford Youth Services "Good Person Award" on Monday, January 26 at Town Hall. She is a long-time supporter of many Needham organizations and activities, including Park and Recreation's Arts in the Parks.

SKATING ON PONDS

We have been fortunate this winter to have less snow than normal, and below freezing temperatures. It has been several years since we have had enough ice for outdoor skating, so many are enjoying the opportunity. Lights were on over the holiday weekend at Horsford and Reservoir, but warmer temperatures brought out fewer skaters with the soft skating surface. Evaluations will be made each Friday, and if conditions support it, the lights will be on for the weekend. Conditions that would prevent lights from being scheduled to be turned on: expected above freezing temperatures, expected snow storm, poor skating surface due to snow conditions.
